



Building Department Newsletter

July 2010

Special points of interest:

- Do I Need a Deck Permit?
- Wood or Plastic Composites on Decks
- Required Guard Locations and Height
- Under Stair Protection
- Dwelling Unit Separations for Two-Family Dwellings
- Residential Cook Tops

DO I NEED A DECK PERMIT?

The City of Pullman Construction Code exempts the permitting of decks when they do not exceed 200 square feet in area; are not more than 30 inches above grade at any point; are **not attached** to a dwelling; and do not serve a required exit door such as egress from habitable levels including a habitable attic and basement.

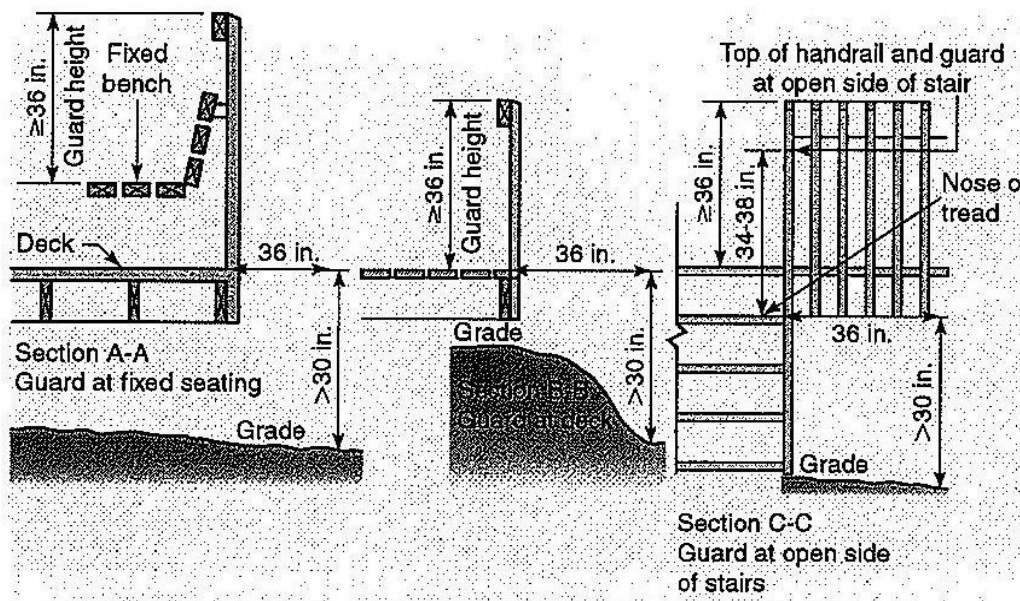
WOOD OR PLASTIC COMPOSITES

The 2009 International Residential Code states that wood or plastic composites used for exterior stair treads, deck boards, handrails and guard-rail systems will have a label indicating the required performance levels and demonstrate compliance with the provisions of ASTM D 7032.

REQUIRED GUARD LOCATIONS AND HEIGHT

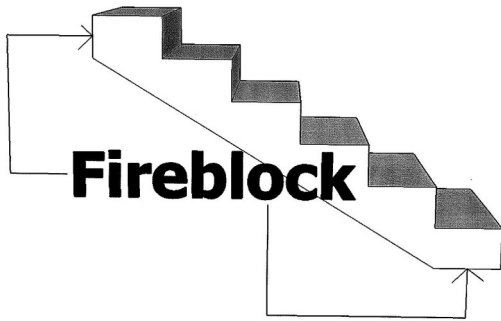
The 2009 International Residential Code, Section R312, states that guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, ramps and landings, that are located more than 30 inches measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard.

(See sketch.)



Required guards at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36 inches high measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface, adjacent fixed seating or the line connecting the leading edges of the treads. (See sketch.)

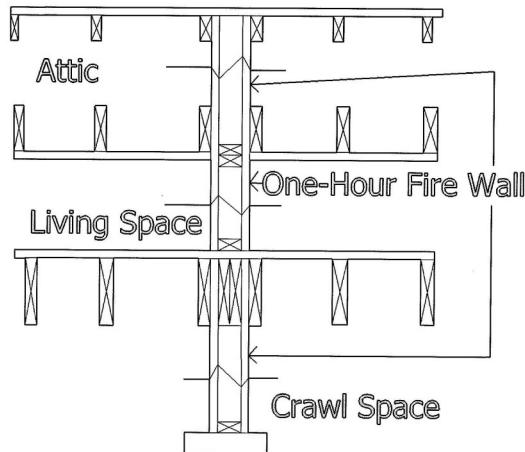
UNDER STAIR PROTECTION



The 2009 International Residential Code, section R302.7, requires protection of enclosed accessible spaces under stairs (closets and storage areas). All interior wall, ceiling and soffit framing are required to be covered with at least one layer of $\frac{1}{2}$ " Gypsum Board.

DWELLING UNIT SEPARATIONS FOR TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS

The 2009 International Residential Code, section R302.3, requires a one-hour fire rated separation, (wall, ceiling or floor) between dwelling units. Vertical separations must start at the foundation and terminate at the underside of the roof sheathing. *Exception:* The vertical separation wall may terminate at the underside of the



uppermost ceiling if the ceiling is covered by no less than one layer of $\frac{5}{8}$ " Type X gypsum board and an attic draft stop is installed along the entire length of the separation wall and all walls structurally supporting the ceiling are protected with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " gypsum board.

RESIDENTIAL COOK TOPS

Section M1901 of the 2009 International Residential Code requires 30 inches of vertical clearance between the top surface of a range or cook top and cabinets or other combustible materials above. Be sure to check the listing information of the individual cooking appliance, if a closer distance is listed then the cooking appliance may be installed accordingly.

